

State of Alaska Department of **Transportation and Public Facilities**

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EAGLECREST ROAD PROJECT TO CUT MAINTENANCE COSTS

Annual road maintenance costs will be reduced by half on the road that leads to Juneau's popular Eaglecrest Ski Area, through a joint improvement project undertaken by the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, and the City and Borough of Juneau.

The partnership involves resurfacing the 5.2 mile Fish Creek Road leading to Juneau's only ski area. Presently, the gravel road requires major maintenance and snow removal efforts costing \$100,000. Following resurfacing, annual road maintenance costs will drop to an estimated \$50,000 a year.

The city pays the state to perform the maintenance work, with each footing about half the bill, according to DOT&PF Commissioner Joe Perkins.

The winter maintenance problems on the road are extensive, requiring the use of slow graders and up to four sandings a day to keep icy conditions at a minimum.

By investing \$200,000 in deferred maintenance funds into resurfacing the Fish Creek Road, the state will recover its materials investment in four years, and provide a safer road for winter drivers.

A major feature of the new surface will be DOT&PF's ability to use a new de-icing system being introduced in Southeast Alaska this year. The system cannot be used on gravel, but can be used on the asphalt surface.

The de-icing system melts snow build-up down to bare pavement, and reduces the need for sand usage. The de-icing technique was implemented on a trial basis in Petersburg last year with great success and cost savings.

"We are excited about the partnership with the City and Borough of Juneau, which will allow both the state and the city to reduce maintenance costs and increase safety on this well-traveled road," said Transportation Commissioner Joe Perkins.

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"Anytime we can provide safer roads and achieve long-term cost savings, it's a win-win situation", said Juneau City-Borough Manager Dave Palmer. "The Fish Creek Road to Eaglecrest is extremely popular both in winter and summer, and we are glad this partnership with state is ultimately going to benefit the community and visitors from across the state."

State maintenance crews and equipment will be used on the project.
DOT/PF expects the Juneau project will be completed by September 26.

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For more information contact Dennis Poshard at 465-3900.